

Message Text

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45

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 EB-11

FAA-00 ACDA-19 NIC-01 MBFR-03 SAJ-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00

RSR-01 /131 W

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R 201023Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6399

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION BERLIN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 10329

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, PFOR, GE, GW, UK

SUBJECT: FRG ANSWERS GDR PROTEST ON AIR SPACE VIOLA-
TION

REF: BERLIN 1228

1. FONOFF HAS CONFIRMED PRESS REPORTS THAT FRG INNER-
GERMAN AFFAIRS MINISTRY ANSWERED GDR PROTEST NOTE ON
AIRSPACE VIOLATION (REFTEL). FONOFF RECEIVED GDR TELE-
GRAM EVENING JULY 17 AND RESPONSE WAS DISPATCHED
JULY 18 TO GDR MFA.

2. OUR FONOFF CONTACTS HAVE TOLD US THAT THE CHAN-
CELLERY MADE THE DECISION TO RESPOND THROUGH THE INNER-
GERMAN AFFAIRS MINISTRY (FONOFF WORKING LEVEL REPS HAD
RECOMMENDED THAT CHANCELLERY ITSELF RESPOND TO GDR, THUS
COUNTERING GDR ATTEMPT TO SET A PRECEDENT FOR USE OF AN
INTER-FONOFF CHANNEL PRIOR TO ESTABLISHMENT OF PERMANENT
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MISSIONS). AT A PRESS CONFERENCE JULY 18, A SPOKESMAN

FOR THE INNER-GERMAN AFFAIRS MINISTRY SAID IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION THAT THE GDR PROTEST NOTE WAS AN "UNJUSTIFIED AND INAPPROPRIATE" DESCRIPTION OF AN ACCIDENTAL OVER-FLIGHT AS A SERIOUS OFFENSE AGAINST ACCEPTED INTERNATIONAL LEGAL NORMS. THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE RETALIATORY ACTION BY THE GDR FIGHTER HAD REPRESENTED A "SERIOUS DANGER TO AIR SAFETY".

3. IN AN APPARENT EFFORT TO END THE EXCHANGE OF CHARGES, THE FRG ANSWER ALSO STRESSED THAT THE FRG REGRETS SUCH INCIDENTS, AND HAS OFTEN REMINDED SPORTS FLYERS IN THE FRG TO CAREFULLY OBEY AIR TRAFFIC REGULATIONS. THE SPOKESMAN RENEWED THE FRG CALL TO SUCH SPORTSMEN NOT TO OVERFLY THE GDR.

4. WE UNDERSTAND FROM THE BRITISH (IN WHOSE ZONE THE VIOLATIONS TOOK PLACE) THAT THE CESSNA IN FACT STRAYED 30 KM INSIDE GDR AIRSPACE. AS IS CUSTOMARY IN SUCH CASES, THE CONTROL TOWER AT UELZEN MADE CONTACT WITH THE AIRCRAFT AND RELAYED A HEADING WHICH WOULD BRING THE PLANE QUICKLY BACK TO FRG AIRSPACE. AT THIS POINT, A MIG APPEARED AND ESCORTED THE CESSNA OUT OF GDR AIRSPACE, CIRCLING IT AT SAFE DISTANCE. ON ITS LAST LOOP, THE MIG STRAYED INTO FRG AIRSPACE. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT BRIXMIS DELIVERED A LOW-KEY PROTEST STATEMENT AT 1500, JULY 18, PROTESTING THE MIG INCURSION INTO FRG AIRSPACE.

HILLENBRAND

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